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SUBJECT: TFIZ01: USAID/PRM HUMANITARIAN/RECONSTRUCTION
SITUATION REPORT #5, 29 MARCH 2003

SUMMARY

1. Humanitarian assistance is beginning to flow into parts of southern Iraq provided by both the Kuwaiti Red Crescent and Coalition forces. An UNSECOORD security assessment team is expected to travel to Umm Qasr on 30 March to determine whether the town can be deemed a permissive environment for future U.N. humanitarian operations. On 27 March, the ORHA / USAID Reconstruction Team leaders met with representatives of CENTCOM and CFLCC to prepare an integrated operations plan. On 28 March, Ambassador Bodine chaired a daylong planning session, which included representatives from all relevant U.S. agencies and groups that will be on the ground in the Central Region. End Summary.

HUMANITARIAN OPERATION CENTER (HOC) DAILY BRIEFING

2. According to the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC), Coalition forces have reported an area of low, mud-hut dwellings on the outskirts of Al Nasiriyah populated by an unknown number of people in need of food and water. In response, Coalition forces plan to supply 20,000 humanitarian daily rations and 24,000 liters of bottled water to the population.

3. On 28 March, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society sent a nine-truck convoy to Safwan. Five trucks are carrying daily rations and four trucks are transporting monthly family rations. The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society has not discussed operational plans with the HOC. The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society also conducted a survey on 28 March to determine the site for a field hospital within the UNIKOM compound.

4. A UNICEF-sponsored three-truck convoy was expected to leave on 29 March for Umm Qasr. The convoy is transporting water, water bladders, and health kits. No UNICEF staff is part of the convoy and funding is coming from private sources using local drivers. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have agreed to send a convoy to Basra on 29 March. Several trucks will be carrying water and one ICRC medical kit to the hospital. ICRC is expected to be in charge of the distribution.

5. An UNSECOORD security assessment team is expected to travel to Umm Qasr on 30 March to determine whether the town can be deemed a permissive environment for future U.N. humanitarian operations.

6. UNICEF-sponsored water tanker deliveries were made to Umm Qasr, Safwan, and Az Zubayr on 28 March. In addition, the convoys transported a number of 5,000 cubic meter water bladders to the three locations. The water bladders are being pre-positioned to provide a continuous supply of water to these vulnerable populations. On 29 March, a water delivery is being made to the town of Umm Qhayal, northwest of Umm Qasr with a population of 30,000.

7. The three-kilometer pipeline being constructed from Kuwait towards Umm Qasr is expected to be completed on 30 March. This new source of water will provide 2.4 million liters of water per day to southern Iraq. Water tankers currently trucking water from inside Kuwait will be able to

use the new source to provide water to areas including Umm Qasr, Safwan, Basra, Umm Qhayal, and Az Zubayr.

18. A U.S. military spokesman estimated that between 1,000 and 2,000 residents fled the ongoing conflict in Basra on 28 March. There was no indication as to the current location of the displaced, but they are reported to be in the local area. No information was provided on injuries or casualties or whether they were forced to flee or voluntarily departed. The spokesperson also reported that residents of Basra are receiving approximately 100 liters of water per day instead of the usual daily 300 to 350 liters per day. The DART will attempt to confirm daily water delivery levels with UNICEF and/or ICRC representatives.

19. Sixty percent of the southern Iraqi oilfields are under Coalition control. Three oil wells remain to be extinguished.

10. The daily HOC briefing is available on the Humanitarian Information Center's website at www.agoodplacetostart.org under the tabs Coordination Structures, Regions, Kuwait.

USAID - RECONSTRUCTION

11. On 27 March, the ORHA / USAID Reconstruction Team leaders met with representatives of CENTCOM and CFLCC to prepare an integrated operations plan. Functional groups from all three entities prepared and presented concept papers outlining their respective operations plans, including assets available for implementation. Additionally, the groups sought to identify operational gaps and potential remedies. Overall, USAID responses were well received by the military and revealed no serious issues at this point. It was emphasized that the greatest impediment to implementation remains the physical security situation in Iraq, and until that changes for the better, plans will remain on hold.

12. On 28 March, Ambassador Bodine chaired a daylong planning session, which included representatives from all relevant U.S. agencies and groups that will be on the ground in the Central Region. Most of the ORHA / USAID Reconstruction Team leaders participated in the sessions, aimed at identifying sectoral issues in water/sanitation, health, transportation, municipal services, and other management.

13. Upon reviewing the terms of the airport reconstruction and operations contract, the military has advised that they will not support any airport not under their control. Therefore, the existing airport contracts may need to be examined to assure inclusion of tower and approach capabilities at all airports, including radar equipment and maintenance, as well as FAA liaison.

14. By way of clarification, the USAID Mission did not report any intention to implement plans to provide, on an exceptional basis, 900,000 liters of bottled water to the Iraqi population; rather the USAID Mission evaluated available quick-response capabilities for providing drinking water. Such responses, under the Logcap logistics contract, have been deemed doable, but there are no current plans to activate them barring a clear need, assessment, and coordination with the DART and others.

15. The USAID Mission plans to begin reporting a once-weekly update on security beginning on 28 March in view of the fact that the security environment may impact operations from time to time.

16. The Port of Umm Qasr is still not considered permissive for the entrance of USAID's Port Reconstruction Manager. (EMBASSY NOTE: The port was declared "permissive" on March 31. END NOTE.) The Mission has investigated the operational and logistic requirements for the manager's entrance. Security and logistics arrangements have been made to assure his arrival there as soon as the situation is deemed permissive.

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